

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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AMEMBASSY MWCAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
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USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, BL, HO, ES
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES OVER TV HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR
BORDER DISPUTE AND GOES PLAN TO SETTLE CAMPESINOS IN BOLIVIA

1. IN A FORTY-FIVE MINUTE TELEVISED ADDRESS DURING THE EVENING
OF SEPT 5, FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE RODRIGUEZ PORTH DISCUSSED
SOME RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EL SALVADOR'S FOREIGN POLICY AND
THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN THE GOES'
"NATIONAL PLAN OF WELFARE FOR ALL, 1978-1982" (SAN SALVADOR
2777). AMONG ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, RODRIGUEZ
PORTH CITED THE RECENT AGREEMENT WITH BOLIVA, PROVIDING FOR
EMIGRATION OF SALVADORAN CAMPESINOS TO BOLIVIA.

2. THIS PLAN HAS BEEN IN DISCUSSION STAGE SINCE AT LEAST
JANUARY OF THIS YEAR (SAN SALVADOR A-10). IN JULY
OF THIS YEAR, SUBSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROBERTO
MENDOZA JEREZ TRAVELED TO BOLIVIA TO HEAD TALKS LEADING
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TO FINAL AGREEMENT. PRESS REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT
AGREEMENT CALLS FOR BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FOR

A MINIMUM OF 70 MANZANAS OF LAND FOR EACH SALVADORAN
FAMILY THAT EMIGRATES AND TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO SITUATE
SALVADORAN FAMILIES IN THOSE PARTS OF BOLIVIA WITH A
CLIMATE SIMILAR TO EL SALVADOR'S. ALSO, AGREEMENT

REPORTEDLY PROVIDED FOR A MIXED COMMISSION COMPOSED OF TWO BOLIVIAN AND TWO SALVADORAN OFFICIALS TO ENSURE THAT PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT ARE PUT INTO EFFECT.

3. RODRIGUEZ PORTH DEVOTED A MAJOR SECTION OF HIS ADDRESS TO THE ONGOING EFFORTS TO SETTLE THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR, EMPHASIZING THAT IN DOING SO HE DID NOT WANT TO "REOPEN OLD WOUNDS THAT HAD HEALED." RODRIGUEZ PORTH PRAISED DR. JOSE LOUIS BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO, MEDIATOR IN THE BORDER DISPUTE, AND EXPRESSED THE GOES CONFIDENCE IN HIS EFFORTS TO SEEK AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION.

4. IN ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPUTED BORDER BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS, RODRIGUEZ PORTH STATED THAT BEFORE THE 1969 WAR, THE BORDER HAD NOT BEEN AN ISSUE IN DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT HAD ONLY BECOME SO IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT FOLLOWED THE WAR. HE READ FROM DOCUMENTS DATING BACK TO THE LATE 19TH CENTURY IN WHICH HE SAID HONDURAN OFFICIALS HAD EXPRESSLY STATED THAT HONDURAS HAD NO OUTSTANDING TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST EL SALVADOR. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS PRESENTATION, RODRIGUEZ PORTH SHOWED THE SEVERAL AREAS OF TERRITORY IN DISPUTE ON A MAP NEAR HIS DESK.

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5. COMMENT. RODRIGUEZ PORTH GAVE AN IMPRESSIVE PRESENTATION OVER TELEVISION. WHILE HE BROKE NO NEW GROUND WITH RESPECT TO HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR DISPUTE, HE EMPHASIZED THE GOES CONFIDENCE IN BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO AND ITS HOPES FOR A SUCCESSFUL, EARLY RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS STILL OUTSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
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